MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you all sit down? Let me make the position very clear, it is an established practice that when the Minister says that it is not in public interest, it is a complete answer, though it puts the responsibility on the Minister not to use it lightly at all. It should be used in very very rare cases.

SHRl VIREN J: SHAH: With the greatest respect, it has been used every lightly.

{Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is in May's Parliamentary Practice.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: May I submit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRl S. B. CHAVAN: About this point, Sir, about the protection that the hon. Minister is trying to seek from the Hon. Chair. May I request you, Sir, that this is a policy statement of this Government that there should be right to information. On the other hand, he is saying that it will not be in public interest to disclose this. When the question of prices is being asked, I do not think any Minister can take up this plea. There is no question of public interest involved in this.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: You have yourself said that this right must be exercised in the rarest of rare cases. Do you think, Sir, that a matter of this nature is the rarest of rare cases where under the garb, under the protection, under the plea of public interest, we should be denied the information which we are entitled to and the right of expressing our indignation over what is happening in the matter 6f price rise? We will leave it to your judgement. If it is a matter Which is really the rarest of rare cases and where it is even remotely justified, we will have nothing to say. But if this is a case either of avoiding embarrassment or purely a case where he does not have information about it, then my respectful submission is that the question be postponed to next Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Take your seat please. When I sit on this Chair, I am not there to protect the Government or the Opposition. I have only stated the position as it obtains. The position is very clear that if a Minister or the Government decides to say that a reply to this will n6t be in public interest, it is a settled practice that we do not question it. But, as I have said, this particular thing is said in very very rare cases. I hope the Minister has looked into it and found that it is a case where he must use this privilege. I have no right to question his decision on this. So, the matter is closed.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

खाद्य तेलों का आयात

*62. श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों के दौरान खाद्य तेलों की कीमतों में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में खाद्य तेलों की उपलब्धता में कठिनाई महसूस की जा रही है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो पिछले तेल वर्ष (नवम्बर-अक्तूबर) के अंत में देश में आयातित खाद्य तेलों का कुल कितना भंडार था ;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने पिछले तेल वर्ष के दौरान घरेलू उत्पादन का अनुमान लगाया था ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार अनुमानित उत्पादन कितना था और सरकार ने खाद्य तेलों के आयात का निर्णय किस तारीख को लिया था ?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम पूजन पटेल) : (क) और (ख) पिछले कुछ महीनों के दौरान खाद्य तेलों के मूल्यों में कुछ वृद्धि हुई है । कुल मिलाकर देश में खाद्य तेल उपलब्ध रहे हैं ।

(ग) गत तेल वर्ष (नवम्बर-अक्तूबर) के अंत में राज्य व्यापार निगम के पास आयातित खाद्य तेलों का कुल स्टाक लगभग 93,601 मि० टन था ।

(घ) और (ङ) गत तेल वर्ष के दौरान प्राथमिक तथा द्वितीय दोनों स्रोतों-से 56.7 लाख मी० टन तेल का उत्पादन हुआ था । 1988-89 के दौरान तेल आयात करने का पहला निर्णय 11 जुलाई, 1989 को किया गया था । खाद्य तेलों का आयात एक निरंतर चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है ।

Suggestions for implementing Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

•63. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had made certain suggestions for implementing the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if BO, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT 'OF RURAL, DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) The suggestions made by the Andhra Pradesh Government recently for the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during 1990-91 are mainly the following: —

(i) During 1090-91, at least 50% of the JRY allocations may be allowed to be retained at the district level instead of the present 20%.

(ii) 15% of the district allocation should be allowed to be retained at the district level for implementation of the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) and only the balance dia-tributed among Panchayats.

(iii) The State Government may be allowed to set apart at least 7% exclusively at the State level for tribal areas in the Sub-Plan area.

(iv) Some discretion may be given to the State Government to ask the Gram Panchayats to make necessary allocation for Social Forestry activity depending upon the local need and feasibility. Some discretion may also be allowed to make sector-wise allocation of funds of important programmes by the State Government.

(v) At present, the Village Panchayats are getting funds based on the population of each Village Panchayat having less than 1000 population (of 1, 000) to 2, 000 for purposes of allocation of funds to Gram Panchayats, so that smaller Gram Panchayats get more funds.

The reaction of the Government to the suggestion are as below: —

(i) According to the modified guidelines issued for the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1990-91, the overall retention of JRY funds at the district level works out to more than 40 per cent as against 50 per cent requested by the State Government.

(ii) During 1990-91, 20% of the total allocation under JRY has been earmarked for Million Wells Scheme. The districtwise distribution of State funds will be done by the State Government concerned.

(iii) The suggestion to permit the State Government to deduct 7%